



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** August 8, 2017  
**District:** 7 - Los Angeles and Ventura counties  
**Contact:** [Lauren.Wonder@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wonder@dot.ca.gov)  
**Phone:** (213) 897-3656

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Caltrans and City of Los Angeles Officials Salute Expansion of Parolee Employment Program**

*Innovative Program Provides Opportunity on Path to Productive Citizenship*

LOS ANGELES — Local and state officials today hailed the continued expansion and growth of the Los Angeles extension of a statewide Caltrans parolee employment program that cleans up litter on state highways while helping participants advance toward becoming productive members of society.

“This program gives parolees a paying job and skills training, while helping Caltrans crews maintain our roadways,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “It’s fantastic news that we can expand this program into the city of Los Angeles to help keep our roadsides cleaner.”

In 2016, Caltrans and the city of Los Angeles partnered to establish the Caltrans “Back to Work Program,” which now operates in all areas of the city. Participants in the program receive assistance in life skills such as education, counseling in alcohol and drug awareness, how to create an effective resume and how to participate in a job interview. Each participant must also attend additional classes as a requirement for participating in the program.

Bureau of Justice statistics show parolees have a strong likelihood of being arrested for a new crime within three years of release from prison, but the Caltrans Back to Work Program is designed to provide participants a meaningful opportunity to earn income and perform work to benefit the community.

Since November 2016, the program has picked up almost 17,000 cubic yards of litter in the Los Angeles area, enough to fill more than 1,000 garbage trucks. This number should grow even further with the expected addition of more crews.

Statewide, Caltrans picked up more than 132,000 cubic yards of litter, enough to fill more than 8,300 garbage trucks, at cost of \$76 million to taxpayers. These figures don’t include additional expenditures made by California counties and cities to pick up litter.

**MORE**



**BE WORK ZONE ALERT**





# NEWS RELEASE

Page 2 – August 8, 2017

The Caltrans Parolee Work Crew Program is a partnership between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Caltrans, the Butte County Office of Education, San Bernardino Community College District and the City of Oakland to provide transitional employment through litter abatement services for Caltrans throughout the state.

For more information on the program, visit <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation/Caltrans.html>.

###



**BE WORK ZONE ALERT**

